

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 573

By Brooks K

A RESOLUTION to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of Volunteer Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should recognize those exemplary organizations that are a credit to this State in promoting the values on which Tennessee was founded; and

WHEREAS, one such notable organization is Volunteer Tennessee, whose mission is to promote volunteerism, community service initiatives, and partnerships to address the educational, public safety, and human needs of this state and nation; and

WHEREAS, founded by executive order on February 7, 1994, to serve as the state's leading volunteer organization to encourage volunteerism and community service, Volunteer Tennessee has excelled in its mission to promote the amelioration of this State, using its proud citizens as the vehicle for change; and

WHEREAS, Volunteer Tennessee partners with AmeriCorps to form the Tennessee Chapter of AmeriCorps, whose 6,618 members have served over four million hours, meeting critical needs in communities across the State; this fruitful partnership with AmeriCorps' programs has leveraged over one million volunteer hours; and

WHEREAS, with the help of its affiliate, AmeriCorps, Volunteer Tennessee has been able to facilitate the allocation of over \$20 million in AmeriCorps education award payments to Tennessee higher education institutions; and

WHEREAS, Volunteer Tennessee also provides training resources through service-learning, which integrates community service with instruction and reflection to enrich the learning experience, teach civic responsibility, and strengthen communities; over 20,000 people have trained on volunteer-related topics; young people from kindergarten to college are able to

engage in educational experiences that teach them the importance of being actively contributing citizens and community leaders; and

WHEREAS, since 1994, Volunteer Tennessee and its programs have used \$49 million in federal funds to leverage over \$54 million in local matching funds to meet community needs; and

WHEREAS, in 2008, Volunteer Tennessee launched its Governor's Volunteer Stars Awards, an initiative that seeks to recognize outstanding volunteers from each of Tennessee's ninety-five counties; thus far, 316 Governor's Volunteer Stars have been bestowed upon some of Tennessee's most benevolent citizens; and

WHEREAS, for twenty years, Volunteer Tennessee has been encouraging and facilitating the philanthropic work of the citizens of the State; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby commemorate the twentieth anniversary of Volunteer Tennessee and commend the organization's directors and staff for their fine work and dedicated service.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.